



Match Report

Opponent: Penn State University

Date: 6 Nov 05

First Match:	Navy 15	PSU 29	A Side
Second Match:	Navy 10	PSU 12	B Side

Two of the top teams in the country met today in Annapolis on Farragut field. Penn State started the game with the wind and sun at their backs by kicking to the Gold kitted Navy side. It did not take long for the visitors to get on the board. Four and a half minutes in, second-class fly half Rob Miller had a kicked blocked within the Navy 22. The bouncing ball was picked up by Penn State and they took an early 5 nil lead, no conversion. Navy responded right away and play shifted to the other side of the field. At the 12 minute mark, second-class wing Chase Hobby knocked in a 30 meter penalty kick from the left side to make the score Navy 3 Penn State 5. Following the kick off, play remained in the Penn State half until the Lions cleared with a 22 meter kick. However, when the ball reached midfield, the Penn State number 2 was carded for repeated off-side infractions and sent to the sin bin for 10 minutes. Play went both ways with Navy earning a 5 meter scrum only for Penn State to be awarded a free kick and relieve the pressure. Penn State quickly drove within the Navy 5 meter line but though

the Gold shirted defense held, only to have Penn State awarded a penalty with the following lineout leading to their second score. The Penn State fly half smoothly cut through the Navy midfield and scored between the posts, conversion good (Navy 3 Penn State 12). Just as the Penn State number 2 was released from the sin bin, senior scrum half Mac Marrone was sent in for Navy after hitting a player in the air. Play would remain around midfield until half time.

The second half begin with very quick and violent, but clean, play around midfield; neither team giving any ground. Penn State would once again benefit from a Navy ball handling error and extend their lead six minutes in. A dropped pass on the Navy side of midfield was scooped up by the Penn State wing and taken 50 meters to try under the posts, no conversion (Navy 3 Penn State 17). The scoring now took a frantic pace as just five minutes later Navy drove a lineout into the Penn State try zone, Hobby made the conversion (Navy 10 Penn State 17). The next seven minutes saw the ball in Navy's half. Penn State used a few

phases on the far left side before once more punching the ball in, no conversion (Navy 10 Penn State 22). Navy took control from the resulting kick off inside the Penn State 22 and a penalty gave Navy a scrum at 5 meters. A great combination between second-class scrum half Graham Cleveland and second-class lock Blake Lindsay saw the Navy lock dive in to close the score to Navy 15 Penn State 22, no conversion. Hard fought rugby continued at midfield and led to a Penn State free kick. The kick was taken quickly and through the Gold defense for the final Penn State try of the day, conversion good (Navy 15 Penn State 29). Navy now poured everything into breaching the White and Blue defense but to no avail. The final moments of the game saw strong runs by Gold attackers met by equally strong tackles from Penn State. The final whistle blew with the ball at the Penn State 22.

The second match saw the teams occupy the same side of the field as the first game with Penn State kicking with the wind to open. Though each side made ventures into the opponents 22, the defenses remained strong and refused to yield a score. Penn State thought they had broken the dead lock in the twelfth minute as their wing raced up the right wing. However, a strong tackle by senior wing Lane Drummond kept the Blue clad score at zero. Situations flipped on the field in the eighteenth minute as second-class lock Pat Polk looked to have scored on

the right side for Navy however the referee refused to agree. The deadlock was finally broke in the 25th minute as Penn State took a quick penalty and overwhelmed the far side of the field. The score and following conversion gave Penn State a 7 nil lead. Both sides continued to push and match the other sending the contest to half time with the same score; Navy 0 Penn State 7.

The second half opened with the kick from Navy and Penn State took the early initiative. The Gold shirted defense bent but did not break and slowly began to move the ball down the field. Navy's steady movement down the field was rewarded with a try in the fourteenth minute. Second-class prop Forrest Lehr would score the try off of a tap from third-class scrum half Richard Brooks. Senior wing Michael Quin knocked in the conversion for a 7 all score line. Navy now played confident rugby and was quickly back inside the Penn State 22. At 20 minutes into the half another Penn State penalty allowed Navy to take the lead. Quin knocked in a 15 meter penalty kick to make the score Navy 10 Penn State 7. Penn State was the beneficiary of the next penalty and once again took the tap quickly. The ball was moved out quickly and up through the Navy midfield to retake the lead with 13 minutes to go, no conversion (Navy 7 Penn State 12). These last minutes saw Navy attack at a frantic pace. The Penn State defense though held strong on multiple scrum and line out defenses within their own 22. Despite the

persistent counters by the Gold backs and supporting ruck by the forwards, Penn State was always able to make that last tackle to prevent a Gold break away. Navy's last drive was pushed

out by the Penn State pack and the resulting line out did not occur as the referee stopped the match in much the same place as the previous game had ended.

Navy Scoring Stats:

A Side

Trys

Lindsay x2

Penalties

Hobby

Conversions made

Hobby

Conversions missed

Hobby

Cards

Marrone

B Side

Trys

Lehr

Penalties

Quin

Conversions made

Quin

Conversions missed

None

Cards

None

